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# urban.

## RENAISSANCE

NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE



Downtown's welcome sign.

### LV Among Top 10 Urban Neighborhoods

A recent **USA Today** article listed downtown Las Vegas as one of the ten great urban neighborhoods throughout the nation, according to Richard Florida. Florida is a senior editor for *The Atlantic* magazine and a professor at the University of Toronto. Further details: <http://bit.ly/okv4Jx>

According to Dalley, this core approach helps Metro to be more strategic and thoughtful about scheduling and placing officers in key areas during peak times.



A neon sign for the 21-story residential complex called the Odgen helps light up the night in downtown Las Vegas. It is located near the intersection of Las Vegas Blvd and Ogden Avenue in the Fremont East Entertainment District. Under new management, the condominium complex was converted to apartment living. Since November 2010, 198 out of 248 available units have been rented. Photo by Brian Paco Alvarez

### Downtown Safety Update

Downtown safety is on the rise, according to **Capt. Michael Dalley** of the Downtown Area Command, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Current statistics support the claim. "Violent crimes are down a whopping 21 percent and property crimes are down nearly 13 percent over the same time last year," Dalley said. "In fact, crime in the downtown area is significantly down by double digits in almost every category."

**“Crime in the downtown area is significantly down by double digits in almost every category.”**

– Las Vegas Metro Police Capt. Michael Dalley

Dalley attributes the improvement to several Metro initiatives, willingness among local residents to report crimes in progress and pride of ownership from a growing number of both downtown businesses and residents.

The Metro Police captain believes that the increase in new business development downtown, has, in turn, resulted in a decrease in crime.

Furthermore, Metro has organized downtown into core areas designed to maintain police presence round-the-clock.

### Housing = Hope

New hope was given to some Las Vegas area residents on Aug. 10, with a ribbon cutting ceremony for **Casa de Esperanza**. Casa de Esperanza, or House of Hope, is a small housing development that provides an affordable and dignified living and social environment for those with HIV/AIDS. (continued...)

## Housing = Hope, continued...

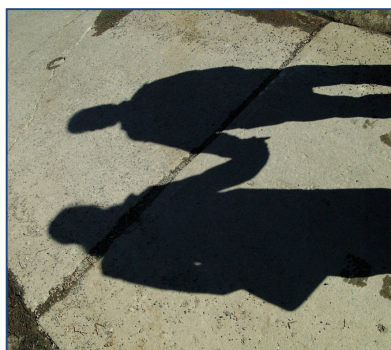
The property will be home for eight residents in one-bedroom cottages and also provide housing via a completely furnished group home for 12. In addition, the complex offers an interior courtyard/patio, a recreational/entertainment area and laundry facilities. A sustainable garden is also in the works. For obvious reasons, the location of this housing is not made public.

The total project cost came to \$1.5 million, which was supplied by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the city of Las Vegas. In addition, volunteers donated over \$10,000 worth of free goods and labor; this included all furniture, painting, cleaning, decorating and gardening. Due to the volunteer donations, the project came in under budget. The balance of available funds will be used for additional property upgrades before the facility opens in early September. The facility will be operated by the Aid for AIDS of Nevada organization.

The **Neighborhood Development division of the city's Economic and Urban Development Department** was one of the groups recognized for their assistance in making this project a reality.



Casa de Esperanza housing units. Photo by June Johns



<http://bit.ly/q0knll>

Learn more about the shadowy world of the mob, on display at the Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, which is opening in February 2012.



7-Eleven operators added a Las Vegas touch to the sign at their new downtown location.

Photo: June Johns

## Convenience At The Corner of Las Vegas Boulevard & Stewart Avenue

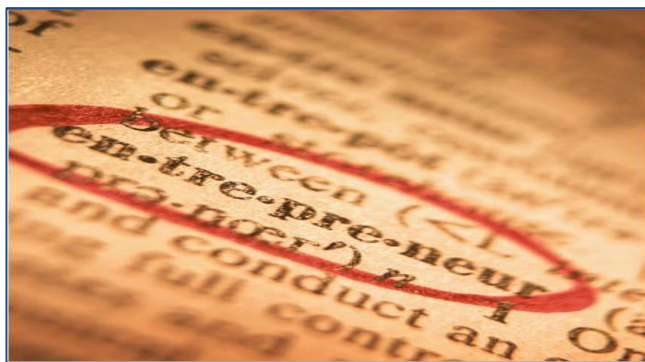
Downtown employees and residents looking for convenience have found some at the new 7-Eleven store located on the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Stewart Avenue. The convenience store, which features a gas station and soon-to-open car wash, caters to those working and living downtown. It opened in August 2011.

The **city of Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency** assisted the owner with matching grant money through its Commercial Visual Improvement Program, which is designed as a business incentive and to help eliminate urban decay. This money was used for exterior painting, landscaping, parking lot striping and a neon sign with Las Vegas flair.

"Downtown is [undergoing gentrification] and growing as a source of pride for the city. From 7-Eleven's standpoint, we like the walkup store concept and dynamic environment that the downtown area offers," said Randy Quinn, market manager for 7-Eleven stores in Southern Nevada.

## Business Friendly

Nevada was rated second among U.S. states when ranked in regards to a friendly policy environment for entrepreneurship. This ranking came from the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council.



### Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency

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